

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14-16, 35, and 52 have been amended. Thus, claims 2-53 are presently pending, with claims 16, 19, 35, and 52 being independent.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-53 in the Office Action dated July 2, 2004. Furthermore, claims 16-18 are objected to in the Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested in the Action, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form and should therefore be in condition for allowance. Claims 17-18 depend from claim 16. Furthermore, the necessary amendments have been made so that claims 2-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 16. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-15 and 17-18 should also be in condition for allowance.

In the Action, claims 1, 35, and 52 are objected to for the use of the term "its." Claims 16 (which includes the language of claim 1), 35, and 52 have been amended to remove the term "its" and replace it with a more definite recitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Colombo', written over a horizontal line.

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